image
11
OCT
$1.95
$2.65
CANADA
THE MASK

image™ COMICS PRESENTS

THE MAXX™

Story • Art
SAM KIETH

Swell Dialogue
BILL MESSNER-LOEBS

Finishes
JIM SINCLAIR

Lettering
MIKE HEISLER

Color
STEVE OLIFF & OLYOPTICS

Logo
CHANCE WOLF

Film Output
KELL-O-GRAPHICS

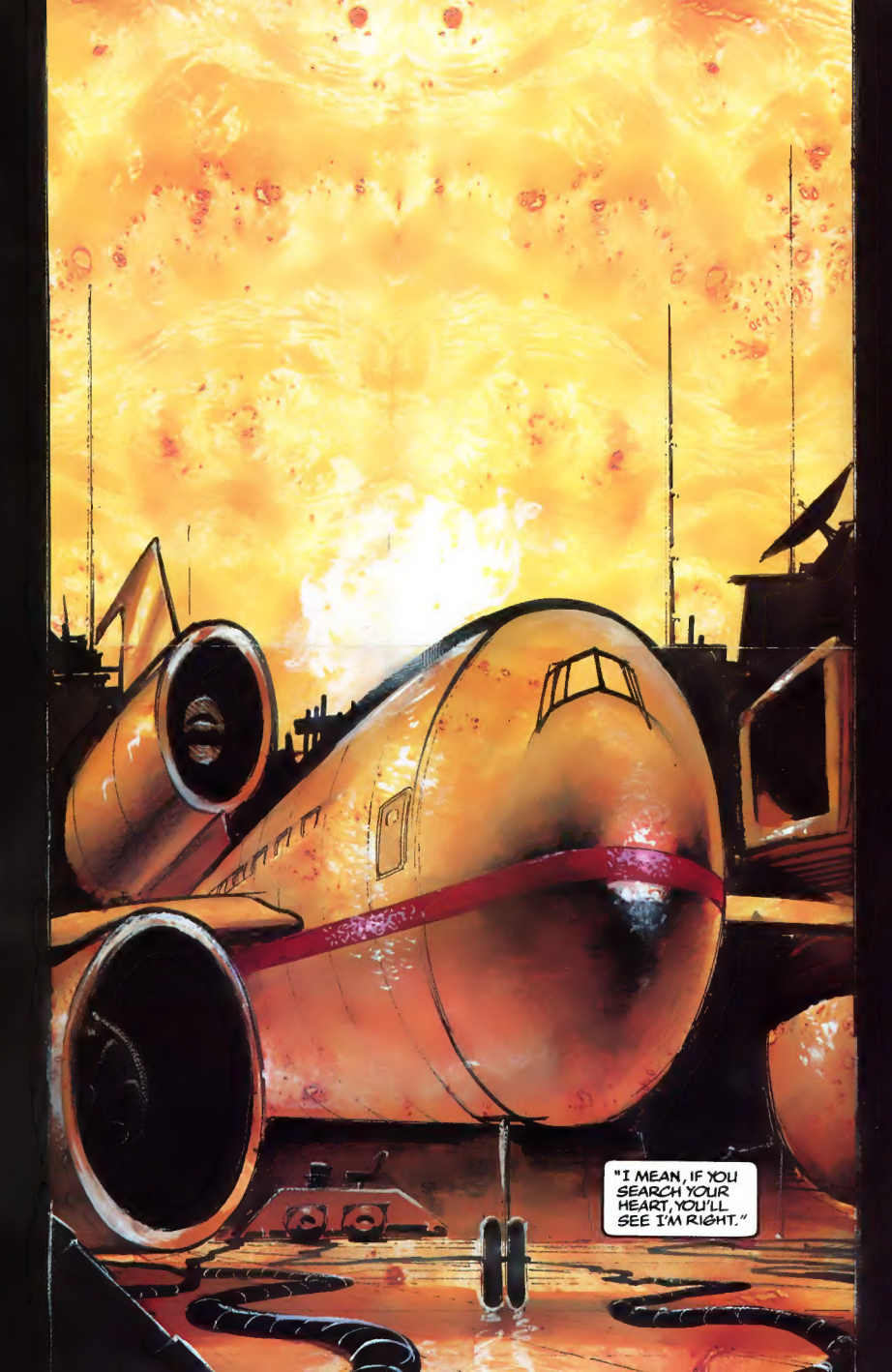
FOR IMAGE COMICS:

Exec. Director	LARRY MARDER
Publisher	TONY LOBITO
Distribution	GERMAINE ZACHARIAH
Art Director	DOUG GRIFFITH
Assistant to Exec. Director	KELLY VAN LANDINGHAM
Production	TERESA CESPEDES
Traffic Coordinator	RONNA COULTER

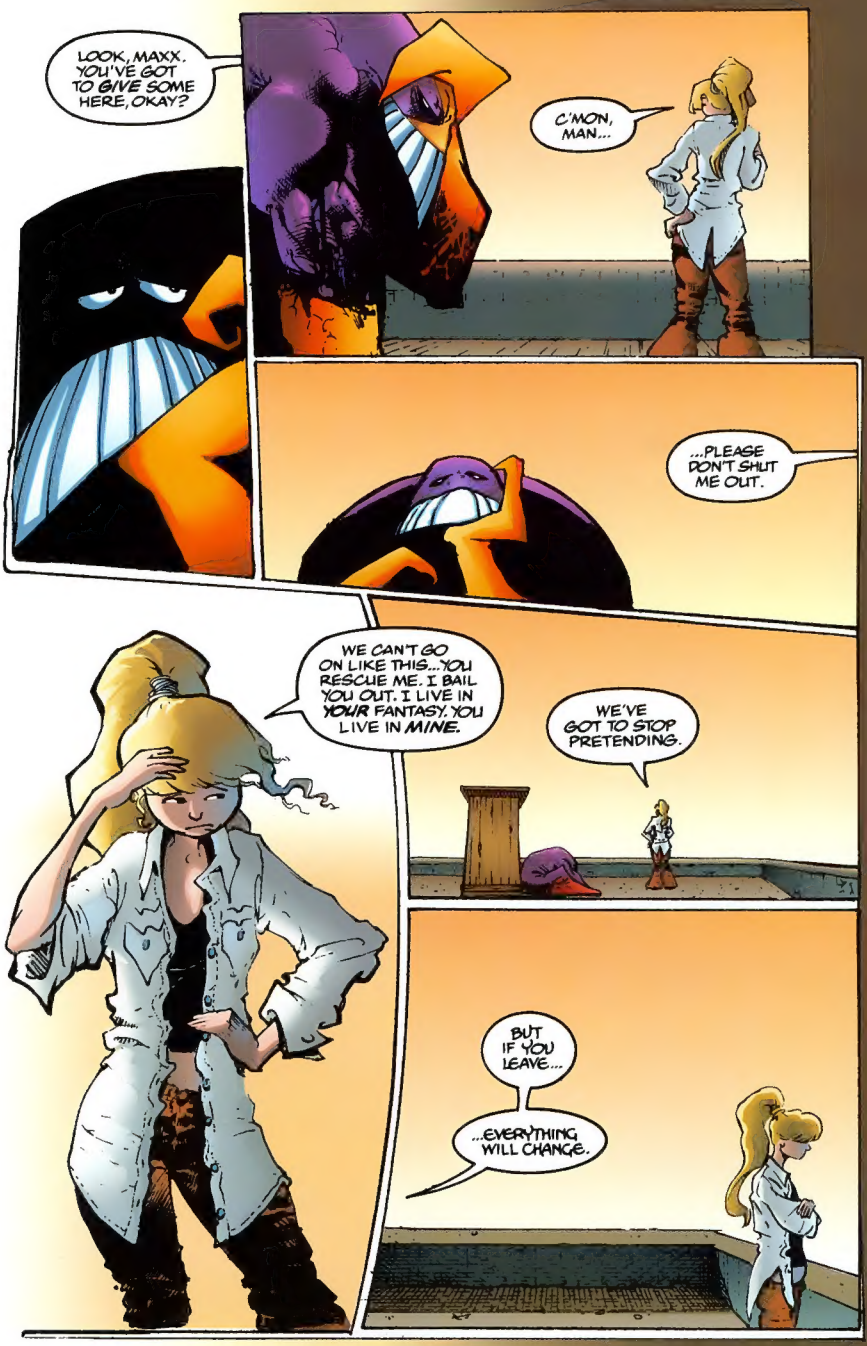
OLYOPTICS IS:
TRACEY ANDERSON
ROBYN ROBERSON
CATHY ENIS
PATTI STRATTON JORDAN
KIRK MOBERT
QUINN SUPLEE
WILLIAM ZINDEL
LEA RUDE
STACY COX
MARIE ST. CLAIR
CHRIS WOLFE
MOOLIS

THE MAXX #11. OCTOBER 1994. FIRST PRINTING. An Image Comics title published by Image Comics. Entire contents TM & © Sam Kieth 1994 , all rights reserved. Nathan Schultz, Where are you? Any similarities to persons living or dead is purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this publication may be reprinted without the permission of Sam Kieth. Send correspondence to: Sam Kieth, 4363 Hazel Avenue, Suite 1-285, Fair Oaks, California, 95628. Publishers and creator assume no responsibilty for unsolicited materials.

Printed in Canada


"I MEAN, IF YOU SEARCH YOUR HEART, YOU'LL SEE I'M RIGHT."

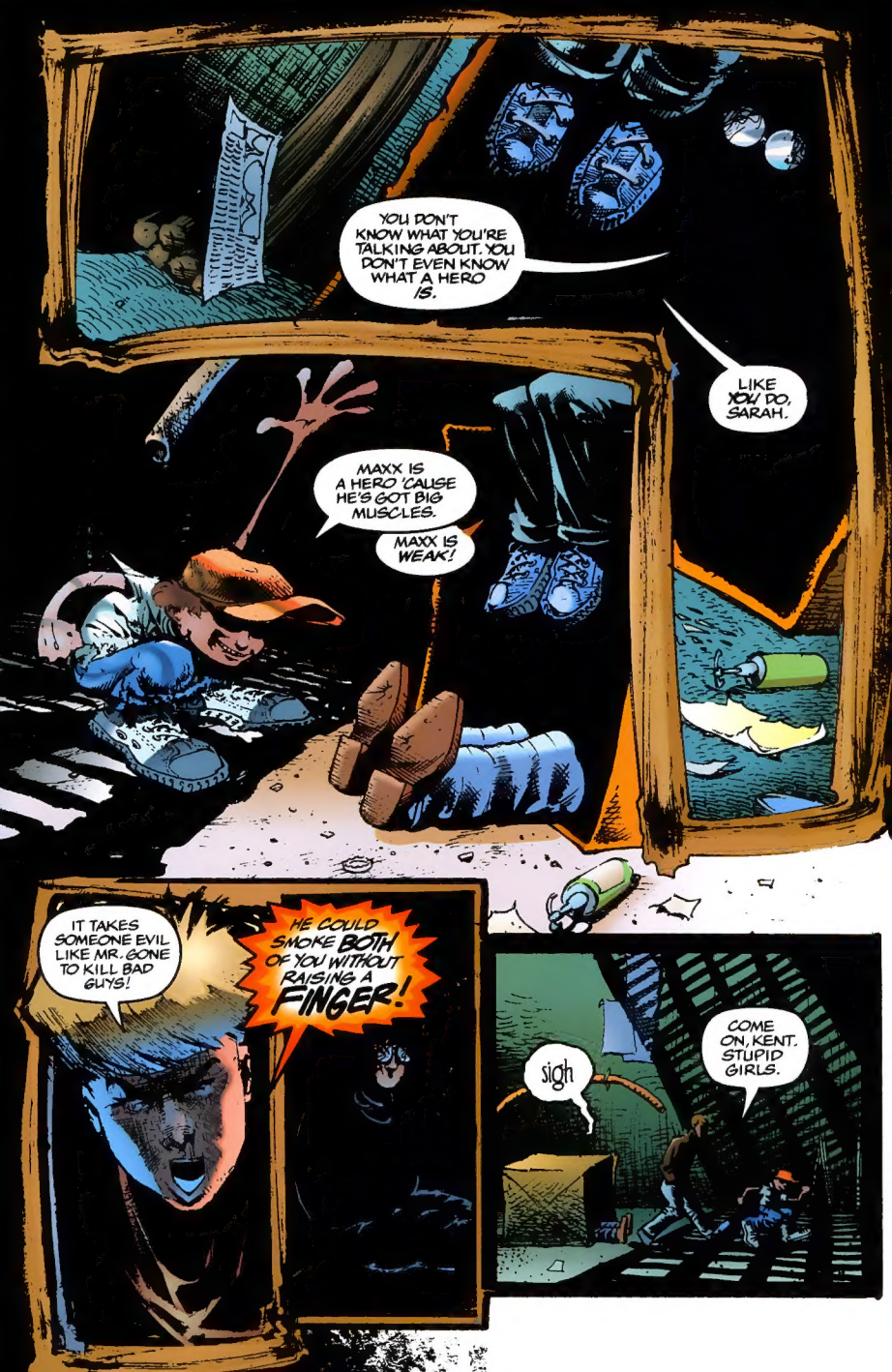
IT'S JUST LIKE THAT PLANE.
IT'S GOT TO FLY.
IT KNOWS IT DOES.
AND SO DO I.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE DRIVING.
OKAY, BAD ANALOGY. STILL...

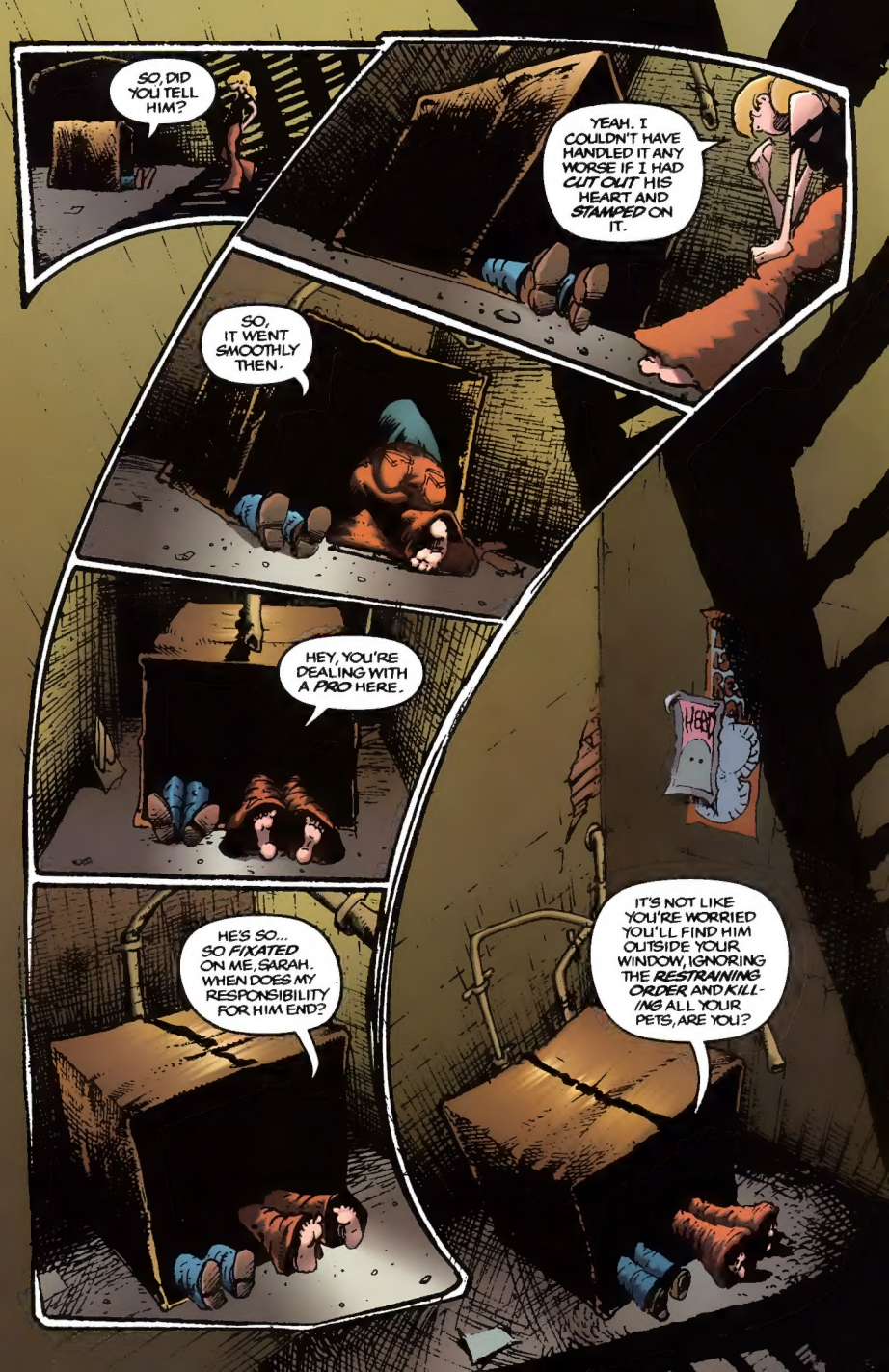

LOOK, MAXX. YOU'VE GOT TO GIVE SOME HERE, OKAY?
C'MON, MAN...
...PLEASE DON'T SHUT ME OUT.
WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS...YOU RESCUE ME. I BAIL YOU OUT. I LIVE IN YOUR FANTASY. YOU LIVE IN MINE.
WE'VE GOT TO STOP PRETENDING.
BUT IF YOU LEAVE...
...EVERYTHING WILL CHANGE.

IT ALREADY HAS, MAXX.
GOD, THAT SOUNDS LAME.
I JUST DON'T KNOW HOW ELSE TO SAY IT.
I MEAN, WHAT IF GONE'S RIGHT? WHAT IF YOU ARE MY SPIRIT ANIMAL? WHAT IF YOU'RE TRAPPED IN A WORLD THAT I MADE UP?
PLEASE
DON'T LEAVE

WHY DON'T YOU SAY SOMETHING? YOU MAKE ME FEEL SO GUILTY
IT'S NICE UP HERE, HUH?
SURE.
THE ONLY WAY I CAN SET YOU FREE IS TO LEAVE
PEOPLE LOOK LIKE ANTS, HUH?
DEEP.
AND IT'S THE ONLY WAY I'LL BE FREE TOO. CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?

HE'S COOL! HE'S BIG AN' STRONG AN' PURPLE AN' COOL.
IS NOT! HE'S GOT NEAT CLAWS! AN' BIG TEETH! AN'...
NO, HE'S NOT. HE'S A WIMP. YOU SAW THE WAY HE JUST RAN FROM THAT SHARK-GUY. HE'S A COWARD.
MAXX IS NOT COOL. MR. GONE IS COOL.
MR. GONE'S NOT COOL! HE'S TOO SKINNY!
HE'S NOT SKINNY... HE'S WIRY!
YOU'RE BOTH IDIOTS.


YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT. YOU DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT A HERO IS.
LIKE YOU DO, SARAH.
MAXX IS A HERO 'CAUSE HE'S GOT BIG MUSCLES.
MAXX IS WEAK!
IT TAKES SOMEONE EVIL LIKE MR. GONE TO KILL BAD GUYS!
HE COULD SMOKE BOTH OF YOU WITHOUT RAISING A FINGER!
sigh
COME ON, KENT. STUPID GIRLS.

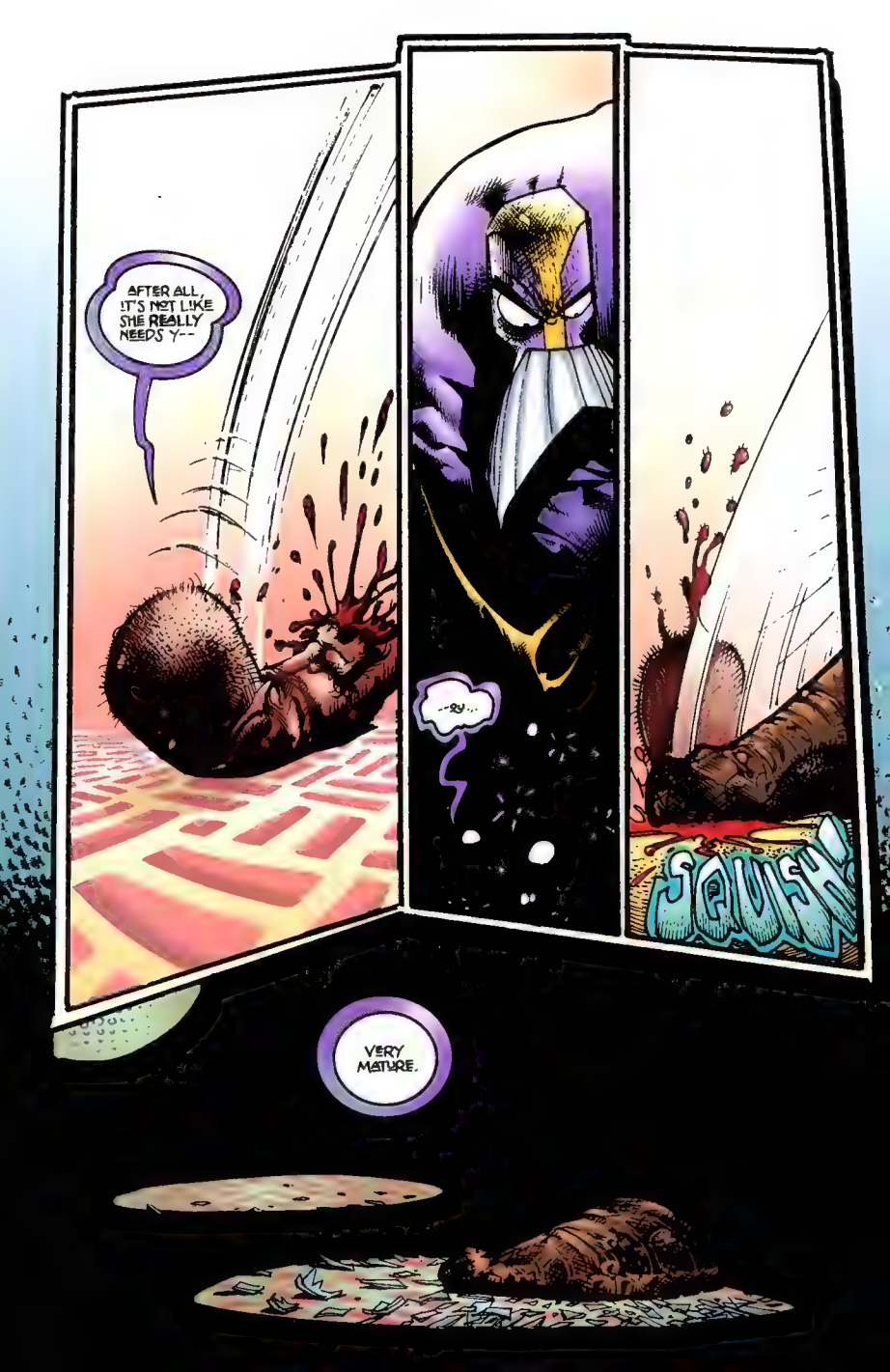

SO, DID YOU TELL HIM?
YEAH. I COULDN'T HAVE HANDLED IT ANY WORSE IF I HAD CUT OUT HIS HEART AND STAMPED ON IT.
SO, IT WENT SMOOTHLY THEN.
HEY, YOU'RE DEALING WITH A PRO HERE.
HE'S SO... SO FIXATED ON ME, SARAH. WHEN DOES MY RESPONSIBILITY FOR HIM END?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU'RE WORRIED YOU'LL FIND HIM OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW, IGNORING THE RESTRAINING ORDER AND KILLING ALL YOUR PETS, ARE YOU?

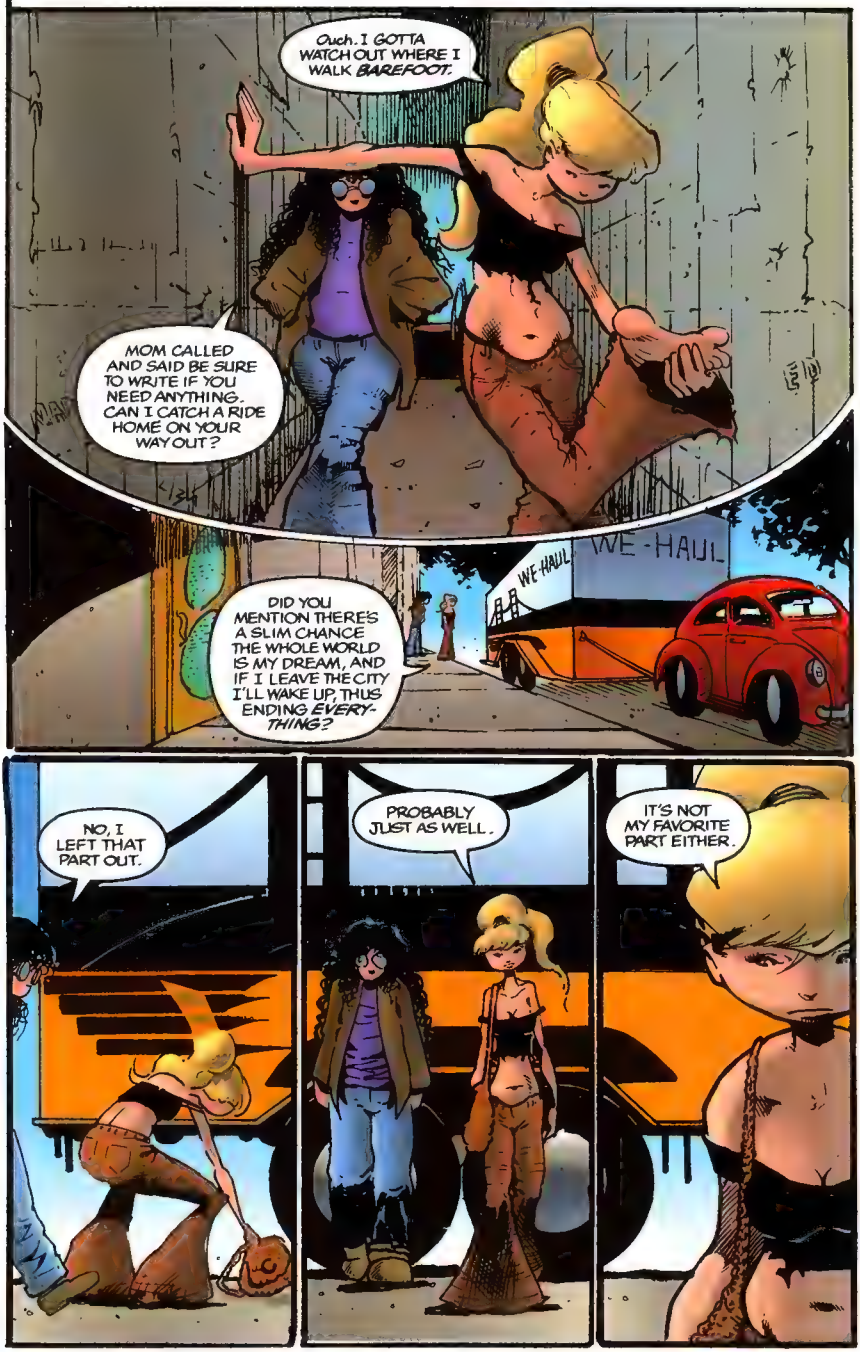
WELL, ARE YOU?
SARAH, OF COURSE NOT. IT'S JUST... OH, I DON'T KNOW.
I JUST HAVE TO REMEMBER I'M RIGHT. TO STAND MY GROUND.
I HAVE TO STAY FIRM, AND NOT...
FOOOSH
...BUDGE.

THUT!

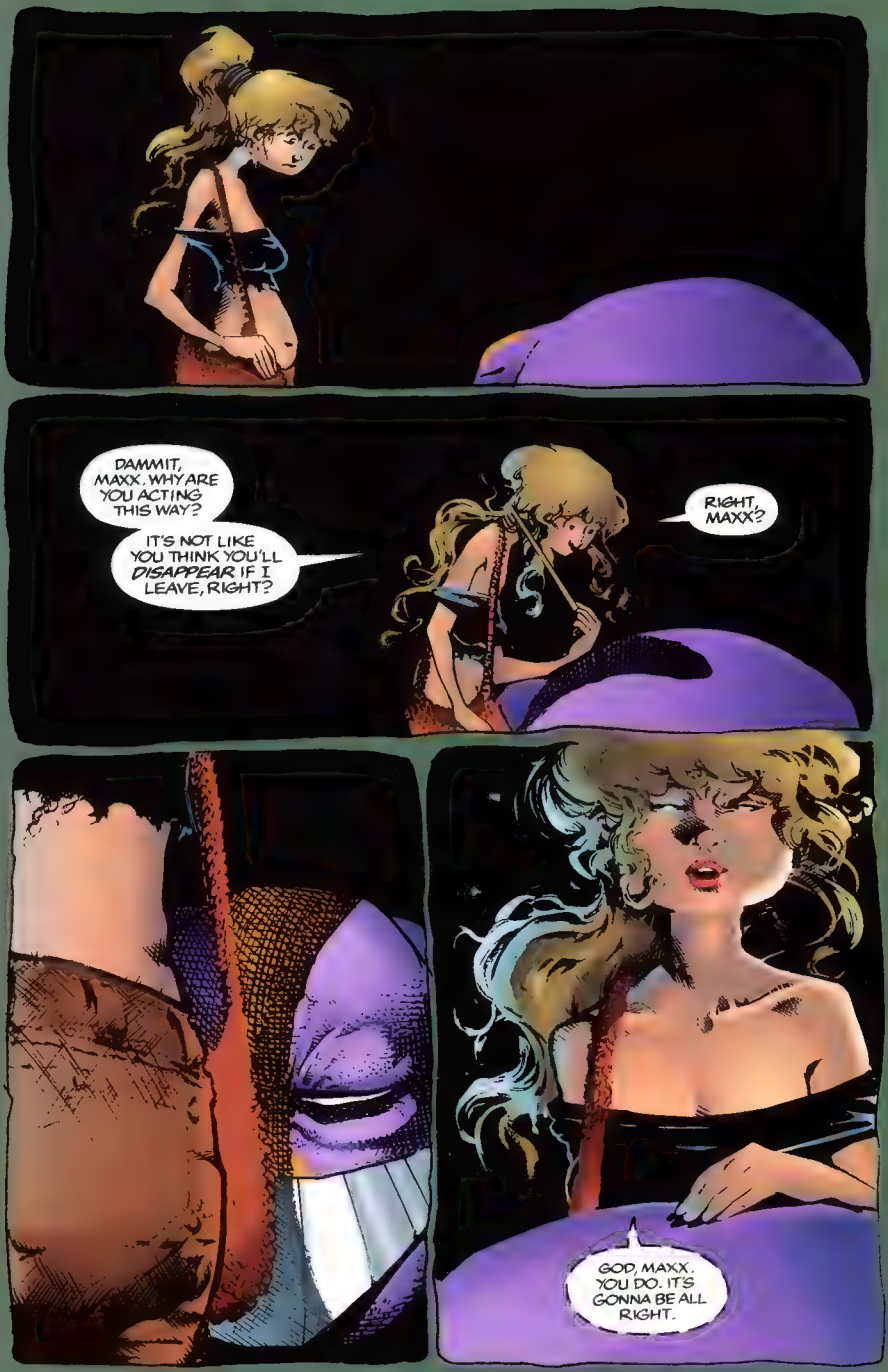
RRRROOTTRROTORRRTA!
GONE!
THAT'S MR. GONE TO YOU, CLAW-BOY.
ACTUALLY, YOU'RE JUST THE LITTLE BUNDLE OF NEGATIVE REINFORCEMENT I WANTED TO TALK TO.
I'VE GOT TO TIDY UP MY KARMA ON THIS PLANE BEFORE I GO.
JULIE'S LEAVING.

REALLY? I DIDN'T THINK THAT GIRL WOULD EVER READ AHEAD IN THE PROSPECTUS! DID SHE TELL YOU THAT EVERY TIME I TRIED TO TELL HER ABOUT HER PAST, SHE'D CUT MY HEAD OFF?
BUT...SHE'S LEAVING.
OH, GROW UP. SHE HAS TO, PUCKY. JUST LIKE I HAVE TO GET THINGS STRAIGHTENED OUT WITH SARAH BEFORE I CAN GO ON. OH, AND BY THE WAY, YOU'RE NOT A RABBIT. YOU JUST GOT IN THE WAY WHEN JULIE'S SPIRIT ANIMAL TRIED TO INCARNATE IN THIS PLANE. FEEL BETTER?
BUT...SHE'S LEAVING!
LEMMEE TRY THIS AGAIN. SHE HAS TO. OTHERWISE WE'LL ALL BE TRAPPED IN HERE FOREVER. DON'T YOU WANT TO KNOW WHAT YOUR OUTBACK IS, WHEN SHE'S NOT AROUND?

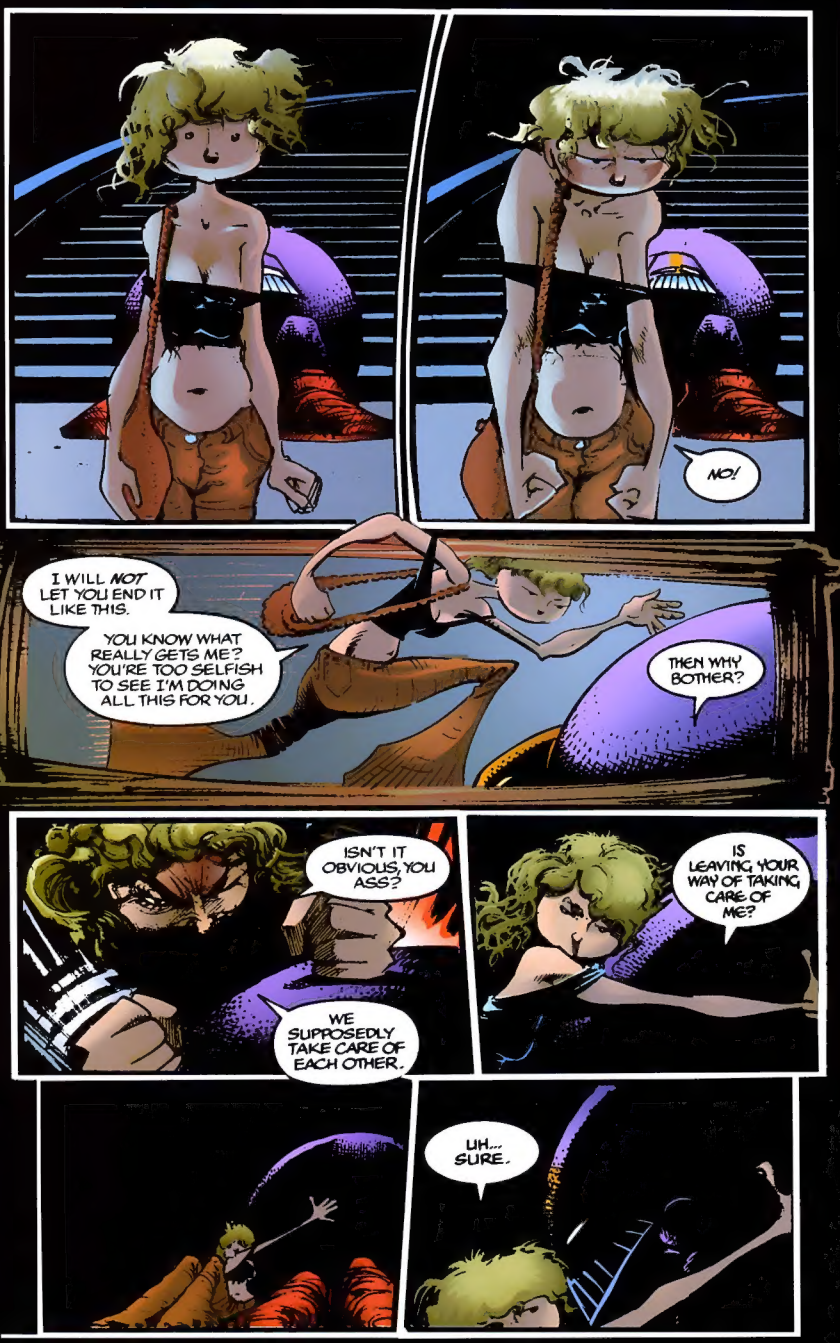

AFTER ALL, IT'S NOT LIKE SHE REALLY NEEDS Y--
--ou...
SQUISH
VERY MATURE.

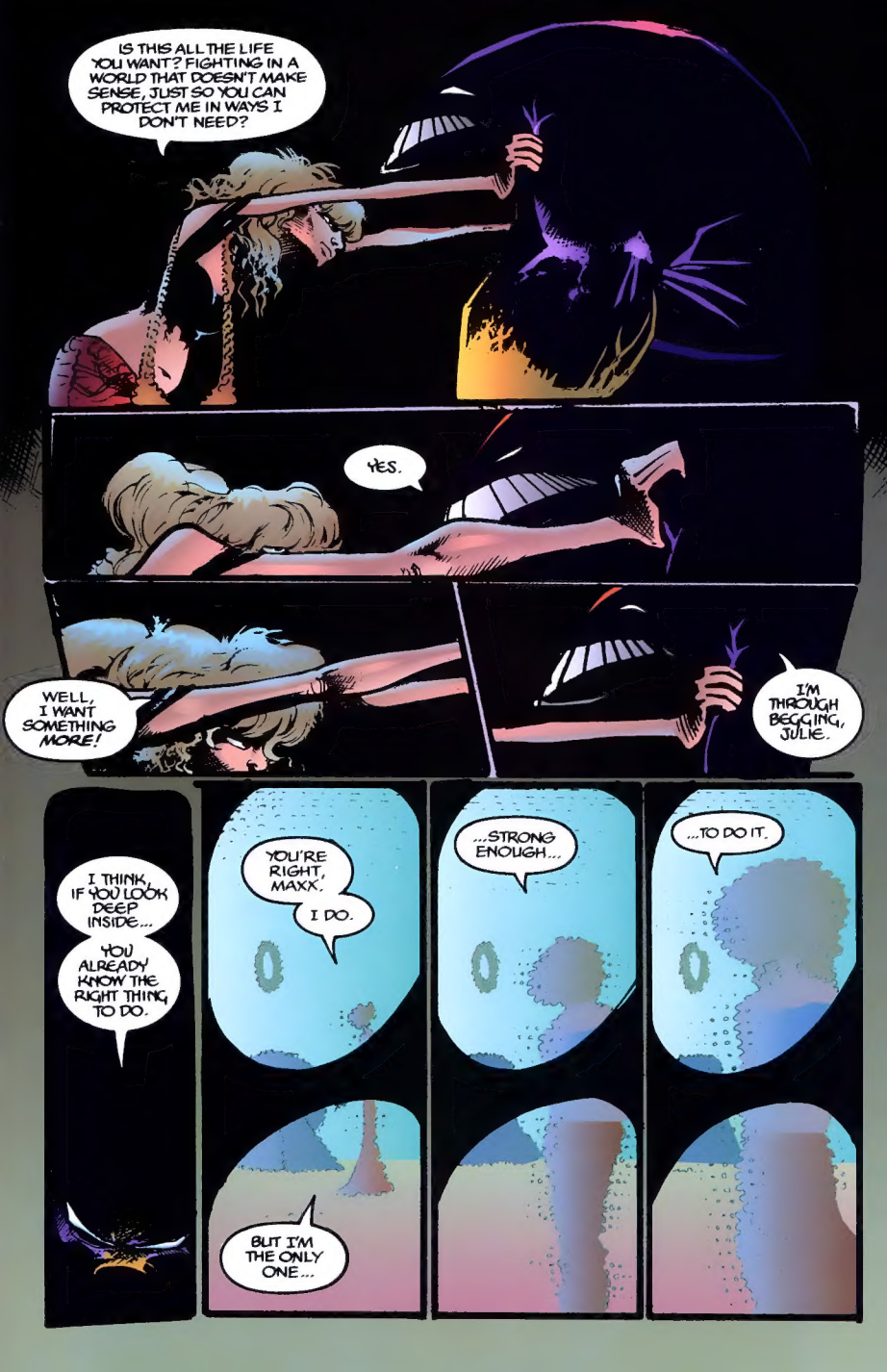

Ouch. I GOTTA WATCH OUT WHERE I WALK BAREFOOT.
MOM CALLED AND SAID BE SURE TO WRITE IF YOU NEED ANYTHING. CAN I CATCH A RIDE HOME ON YOUR WAY OUT?
DID YOU MENTION THERE'S A SLIM CHANCE THE WHOLE WORLD IS MY DREAM, AND IF I LEAVE THE CITY I'LL WAKE UP, THUS ENDING EVERY-THING?
WE-HAUL
WE-HAUL
NO, I LEFT THAT PART OUT.
PROBABLY JUST AS WELL.
IT'S NOT MY FAVORITE PART EITHER.

WHUMP!
DARK ENOUGH IN HERE...
MAXX? YOU HERE?
I'VE GOT PEZ...
HMM. THAT USUALLY WORKS.
MAXX?
I'VE COME TO SAY GOODBYE.
BYE.


DAMMIT, MAXX. WHY ARE YOU ACTING THIS WAY?
IT'S NOT LIKE YOU THINK YOU'LL *DISAPPEAR* IF I LEAVE, RIGHT?
RIGHT, MAXX?
GOD, MAXX. YOU DO. IT'S GONNA BE ALL RIGHT.

DAMN YOU! WHY DO I HAVE TO BE THE BAD GUY HERE?
MAXX, IF YOU REALLY CARED ABOUT ME, YOU WOULDN'T MAKE THIS ANY HARDER THAN IT ALREADY IS.
THEN I DON'T CARE.


NO!
I WILL NOT LET YOU END IT LIKE THIS.
YOU KNOW WHAT REALLY GETS ME? YOU'RE TOO SELFISH TO SEE I'M DOING ALL THIS FOR YOU.
THEN WHY BOTHER?
ISN'T IT OBVIOUS, YOU ASS?
WE SUPPOSEDLY TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER.
IS LEAVING, YOUR WAY OF TAKING CARE OF ME?
UH... SURE.


IS THIS ALL THE LIFE YOU WANT? FIGHTING IN A WORLD THAT DOESN'T MAKE SENSE, JUST SO YOU CAN PROTECT ME IN WAYS I DON'T NEED?
YES.
WELL, I WANT SOMETHING MORE!
I'M THROUGH BEGGING, JULIE.
I THINK, IF YOU LOOK DEEP INSIDE...
YOU ALREADY KNOW THE RIGHT THING TO DO.
YOU'RE RIGHT, MAXX.
I DO.
BUT I'M THE ONLY ONE...
...STRONG ENOUGH...
...TO DO IT.

YOU PACKED EVERYTHING?
UH-HUH. IS HE GONNA BE ALL RIGHT?
SURE.
ARE YOU GONNA BE ALL RIGHT?
NO, SARAH.
SLAM!
CAN WE JUST GO, SARAH?
ARE YOU SURE YOU GOT IT ALL?
YOU CAN ALWAYS COME BACK IF YOU NEED TO...

WE-HAUL
WE-HAUL
I CAN'T.